

# 2008 Annual Report

June 2008



## Utah Commission on Volunteers





State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## Department of Community and Culture



Dear Friends in Service and Volunteering,

Since being sworn-in as Utah's Lieutenant Governor in 2005, I have been honored to serve as the Chair of the Utah Commission on Volunteers. Reflecting on nearly four years of service with the Commission, I am proud of our accomplishments and grateful for your hard work to make them a reality. Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities for engaging more Utahns in service and volunteering. We can and should harness the energy of youth and the wisdom and experience of retirees and everyone in between.

Utah ranks #1 in the nation for volunteering, not only in the number of volunteers and the intensity with which they serve, but also across every conceivable demographic.

That being said, our goal is to build upon that success and encourage even more Utahns to volunteer on a regular basis and work with organizations that need their particular skills and abilities. The Commission on Volunteers is committed to promoting a tradition of volunteering through the Seasons of Service Campaign, highlighting the benefits of giving back to our neighbors and communities in every season of our lives and every season of the year.

Thank you for your selfless service to every community in Utah! I invite you to consider AmeriCorps and Citizen Corps programs as a means of serving and as resources to bolster your community's causes for good. Please, join us as we improve communities through service and volunteering in Utah. You CAN make a difference - you CAN "leave your print" on Utah!

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert

Lieutenant Governor

# ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Utah  
Commission on  
Volunteers

The Utah Commission on Volunteers, which was created by statute in February 1994, is made up of 25 members appointed by the Governor and chaired by the Lieutenant Governor. The Commission is housed jointly in the Lieutenant Governor's Office and the state's Division of Housing and Community Development. The mission of the Utah Commission on Volunteers is to improve communities through service and volunteering in Utah.

The Commission's responsibilities include: administering AmeriCorps programs and coordinating national service programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), administering Utah's Citizen Corps Program and providing technical support to Utah's Volunteer Centers. The Commission also recognizes outstanding community and volunteer service through awards and presents training opportunities at the annual Utah Conference on Service.

The Commission is supported by state and federal funding. For every one state dollar that is budgeted by the legislature, Utah receives almost two dollars in federal funds - a good investment. (\$175,000 in state funds/\$340,000 in federal funds). In addition, the Commission subgrants pass-through funding directly to local community organizations throughout the state. In 2008, the Commission received approximately \$2.5 million for eight AmeriCorps programs.

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# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

## Recognizing the Impact

As the state with the highest volunteer rate in the nation, Utah has many outstanding volunteers who deserve recognition. For this reason, the Utah Commission on Volunteers presents various service awards to spotlight the efforts of the unsung heroes in our state.

## Silver Bowl Awards

This annual awards program was originally started in 1979 when Volunteer Centers coordinated a statewide volunteers recognition event. Since 1997, the silver Bowl Awards have been spearheaded directly by the Utah Volunteer Centers Association, with the Utah Commission on Volunteers as a primary partner in coordinating the awards ceremony. This year the Silver Bowl Awards were held at the Provo Marriott, with Fox 13 News anchor, Bob Evans serving as the master of ceremonies. Volunteers from each of Utah's 29 counties were recognized for their service and awarded an engraved silver bowl, generously donated by OC Tanner Company, and presented by Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert.



## The President's Volunteer Service Award

The award gives Presidential recognition to individuals, families, and groups who have made a sustained commitment to volunteers service. The award recognizes the best in the American spirit and encourages all Americans to contribute to their communities and our nation through volunteer service. This year it is to the great pride of the Commission that one of our own,



Rick Pehrson, has been chosen as the awards recipient. This honor was presented to Rick by the President of the United States, President George W.

Bush on the 28th day of May 2008.

## Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award

Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual who, over the course of his or her lifetime, has made significant contributions to Utah through volunteer efforts. Rick is currently serving as the Pacific Area Manager for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Rick has served as President of the Utah Council on Volunteers and is thrilled to be honored in this way.



## Champion of Liberty Award

On April 29, 2008, the Commission received the "Champion of Liberty Award" from America's Freedom Foundation "for its contribution to Utah's recognition as the #1 State in the Nation in volunteerism for the past five years".

The award was presented at the Hope of America Student Showcase before an audience of over 20,000 people at the Brigham Young University Marriott Center in Provo.

# 2008 UTAH CONFERENCE ON SERVICE

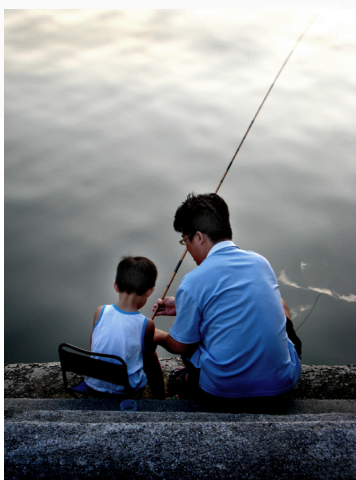
## 2008 Utah Conference on Service

The Utah Commission on Volunteers and its partners worked together in hosting the 2008 Utah Conference on Service: "Service-The Sweet Life," on April 29th and 30th at the Provo Marriott. Approximately 500 attendees and representatives from across the state participated the conference to discuss current issues in service and volunteerism.

The goal of the Conference is to provide premier training and networking opportunities for participants from AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Citizen Corps, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, nonprofits, volunteer centers, schools, universities, businesses, community and faith-based organizations, and local governments. This year's conference on service brought new partners and activities to the features of past conferences - informative workshops, an inspiring awards banquet, great entertainment, and networking with friends. This year's theme, "Service - The Sweet Life" focused participants on the benefits and rewards of service.

Returning to the Conference this year were Steve and Lisa James, Seasons of Service musical presenters. Also, the Commission on Volunteers was recognized on behalf of Utah's citizens for making us #1 in the

nation for volunteering at the Hope of America Foundation Student Showcase concert at the Marriott Center. Wednesday, April 30th, opened with a keynote by Merrilee Boyack, outstanding lecturer and author of the new book, "52 Weeks of Fun Family Service".



Workshops throughout the day included a track for Learn and Serve school districts and anyone interested in grant writing and service learning, a track sponsored by the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, and the ever-popular offerings on volunteer management. New this year was a service project area coordinated by AmeriCorps Program Directors.

Keynote speaker was Jedd Medefind, Deputy Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

*The Utah Commission on Volunteers*  
**Service-"The Sweet Life"**  
*2008 Conference on Service*

## 2008 Award Winners

Utah AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award:

Andrew Zimmer

Utah AmeriCorps VISTA of the Year Award:

Jane Shaffer

Utah Youth Service Award:

Marko Mijic

Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award:

Carol Bellmon

Nonprofit Volunteer Program of the Year Award:

Utah Wing Civil Air Patrol

Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award:

Rick Crawford



# CITIZEN

## Utah Citizen Corps Mission

To harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to disasters of all kinds.

## Utah Citizen Corps Council

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001 we are reminded of our vulnerabilities, more appreciative of our freedoms, and more understanding that we have a personal responsibility for the safety of our families, our neighbors and our nation.

We also know that we can take action now to help protect our families, help reduce the impact a disaster has on our lives, and help deal with the chaos if an incident does occur.

In February, 2004, the Utah Citizen Corps Council was officially adopted as a program and sub-committee of the Utah Commission on Volunteers after a yearlong joint leadership structure by the directors of Utah's Division of Emergency Services & Homeland Security and the Utah Commission on Volunteers. The Council is comprised of representatives of the Utah Department of Health, Utah Emergency Management Association, Utah Department of Public Safety, Red Cross, Utah Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, local and state government, Corporation for National and Community Service, Utah Department of Agriculture, Medical Reserve Corps, Community Emergency Response Team, Utah Council for Crime Prevention & Fire Corps.

The Utah Citizen Corps Council serves as a resource link between the national Citizen Corps initiative and the over 70 local and regional councils throughout Utah. The Council encourages coordinated volunteer service through Volunteer Centers across the state and with the programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service including AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, and Senior Corps programs. The Council provides training to local councils and facilitates partnerships with public safety professionals to maximize resources statewide. The Council promotes the five pillar programs:

## Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch - USAonWatch is the face of the National Neighborhood Watch Program. The program is managed nationally by the National Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Time-tested practices such as "eyes-and-ears" training and target-hardening techniques continue to be at the core of the program. As groups continue to grow, the roles of citizens have become more multifaceted and tailored to local needs. USAonWatch empowers citizens to become active in homeland security efforts through community participation. USAonWatch provides information, training, technical support and resources to local law enforcement agencies and citizens.

## CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team program is administered by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division. CERT is a training program that prepares people to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community. Through CERT, citizens can learn about disaster preparedness and receive training in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. With this training, volunteers can provide critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims before emergency first responders arrive on scene. CERT volunteers also support the community year-round by participating in community preparedness outreach activities and distributing materials on disaster preparedness and education.

## VIPS

The Volunteers in Police Service Program serves as a gateway to information for law enforcement agencies and citizens interested in law enforcement volunteer programs. The program's ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement agencies by incorporating the time and skills that volunteers can contribute to a community law enforcement agency.

# C O R P S

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) manages the VIPS Program in partnership with and on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

## Medical Reserve Corps

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program reports directly to the Surgeon General of the U.S. in the Department of Health and Human Services. MRC strives to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Volunteer MRC units accomplish this mission by supplementing existing emergency and public health resources during local emergencies and other times of community need.

## Fire Corps

Fire Corps promotes the use of citizen advocates to support and augment the capacity of resource-constrained fire and emergency service departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Fire Corps is funded through the Department of Homeland Security and is managed through a partnership between the National Volunteer Fire Council and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, with direction from the National Advisory Committee, to provide the program with strategic direction and important feedback from the field.

## Be Ready Utah Campaign

"Be Ready Utah" is the Lieutenant Governor's statewide preparedness campaign to promote individual, family, and community preparedness for disasters of all kinds. The campaign was launched April 6, 2006 by the Utah Citizen Corps Council to encourage citizens to take personal responsibility for emergency preparedness, to get training, and to volunteer to help make their communities better prepared and more resilient.

The call to action is Be Informed, Make a Plan, Get a Kit, and Volunteer. Every community, school, faith-based organization, agency, association and business can create innovative ways and tools to support the "Be Ready Utah" campaign

In September, 2007 The Utah Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security took the management lead of "Be Ready Utah", with an emphasis on fully engaging local emergency managers in the coordination of "Be Ready Utah" and the collaboration with Citizen Corps Councils in their communities.

## Engaging the Community

The Utah Citizen Corps Council and the Commission on Volunteers continue to provide critical statewide training such as:

- \* "Creating Vigilant, Prepared, and Resilient Communities for Homeland Security", an official training curriculum of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, provided by the Western Community Policing Institute.
- \* "Building Blocks of a Volunteer Police Program", provided by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- \* "Gathering of Seagulls: Unlikely Partners in Disaster Response", a collaborative conference for the Utah Emergency Management Association, the Utah Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and Utah Citizen Corps Councils.
- \* Teen Community Emergency Response Training Train-the-Trainer Course.
- \* "Building Resilient Communities" in conjunction with the annual Power of Prevention Conference.
- \* State CERT Conference.
- \* Volunteer Coordination Center Training, for managing volunteers in disasters.

Public outreach also includes media, literature on preparedness and volunteer opportunities, a Utah Citizen Corps website, and community preparedness events including a high profile at the Utah State Fair.

# A M E R I

## About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages tens of thousands of Americans nationwide in intensive, results driven service each year in areas such as education, public safety, health and the environment. The majority of AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local non-profit and service organizations. Along with the experience of a lifetime, AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, health insurance and training. After their term of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance past or future tuition.

## AmeriCorps\*State Programs

Utah's 300 AmeriCorps members serve critical, unmet needs of our communities in areas such as education, public safety, health, and the environment through partnerships with public agencies, nonprofits, faith-based and other local organizations. While some programs have not yet completed their program year, to date AmeriCorps members have served approximately 227,000 hours this year. These members have mobilized more than 7,000 volunteers who tutored and mentored youth, connected underserved populations to health care resources, cleaned and tended parks and streams, provided recreational opportunities for those with disabilities, taught environmental stewardship, operated after-school programs, and helped communities prepare for disasters giving over 176,000 hours of service. The Commission was awarded \$2,402,498 in AmeriCorps grant funding which was passed through to the 8 AmeriCorps State Programs.

## AmeriCorps and the Medically Underserved

serves 15 satellite health care clinics across the State of Utah. This program is under the umbrella of the Association for Utah Community Health. At a recent meeting of NACHC National Association of Community Health Centers, acknowledgement was given to AUCH for housing the first AmeriCorps program in the state dealing with community health issues. This program has been a great benefit to many communities and is

a vehicle by which 20 full time members and 6 part time members gain experience in the medical field and provide service to the medically underserved within those Utah communities. Funding \$321,269

## The Utah AmeriCorps Literacy Initiative

provides tutoring programs in approximately 110 schools across the state. Members serve as mentors for peer tutoring as well as recruiting hundreds of volunteers to help tutor also. This program stands as a template for other peer tutoring models, the success ratio for those tutoring as well as those being tutored is hailed as a guide for improving scholastic performance in all arenas. This program was funded competitively this year at a significantly increased size and currently has 57 full-time members and approximately 61 part time members. Funding \$1,037,463

## The Youth Garden Project

introduces educational programs to Grand County youth and community members through organic gardening, extra curricular programs and community service projects. This program uses gardening and mentoring as a metaphor to teach civic engagement and job skills to the youth of Grand County. The YGP AmeriCorps Program provides educational opportunities that foster, in youth, the desire for lifelong learning and an appreciation for community and the environment. By working with agencies and organizations within the community, the YGP's AmeriCorps Program positively impacts the lives of over half of the population of Grand County. YGP currently utilizes 3 full time members, 4 half time and 12 quarter time members to serve, mentor and train high school students. Funding \$100,800

## The Boys and Girls Club of Utah County

places 5 full time, 26 part time and 28 quarter time members throughout Utah County. These members work to accomplish the mission of the



# C O R P S

Boys & Girls Clubs of Utah County which is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those at risk, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens and leaders. BGU provides quality after school and summer education programs to over 55 schools, serving over 2,500 youth in Utah County. Funding \$315,000

## The National Ability Center

is committed to the development of lifetime skills for people of all ages and abilities by providing quality, affordable outdoor sports and recreational experiences in a nurturing environment. The objective of these experiences is to build

self-esteem, confidence, leadership and physical development, thereby enhancing active participation in all aspects of community life. As a national role model, the Center promotes the concept of ABILITY through integration, public awareness and education. NAC currently utilizes 5 full time members in all aspects of their program. Funding \$62,541

## The Utah Conservation Corps

is housed in Logan, Utah has 12 full-time, 5 part time, and 22 quarter-time AmeriCorps members which work in partnership with other national service programs and agencies. AmeriCorps members complete needed statewide conservation projects in creation, maintenance, and improving access to trail; fence construction and maintenance; noxious weed removal; and habitat restoration. AmeriCorps members are certified first responders and are registered and available members across the state with mentoring and

in the event of emergency or disaster situations. They have been utilized in search and rescue, and were scheduled for deployment to respond to hurricane Katrina. Funding \$252,000

## The AmeriCorps Ending Chronic Homelessness Program

in conjunction with Utah's Homeless Coordination Committee, involves 17 full time and 6 part time AmeriCorps

functions that supplement case management operations in segments of the population who are determined to be at 'high risk' such as; young people who have aged out of foster care; young men and youth who have been expelled from polygamist communities; children in homeless families and families

at risk of becoming homeless. This program is receiving high praise for its innovative work in the area of homelessness. Funding \$250,425

## USU Community Outreach Program

incorporates 12 quarter time and 10 minimum time members in two separate and very distinct projects. First, the Blue Bike Program which focuses on minimizing the Cache Valley air pollution problem by increasing bicycle commuting on the USU campus and in the surrounding community. The second area of emphasis, the Access to Service program, will build off the crew-based natural resource service model made successful by the Utah Conservation Corps in offering opportunities to serve for individuals of all abilities. By placing individuals with disabilities in positions of service and leadership, their self image and image within the community will improve dramatically. Funding \$63,000



# VOLUNTEER CENTERS



**Mission:** It is the mission of Utah Volunteer Centers to connect people with opportunities to serve, mobilize people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems, promote volunteering, and “Tell the Story” of the impact of constructive volunteering in Utah.



## We Value People



We value people and believe that through volunteer service, people have the capacity to enrich their own lives and improve the quality of life in their communities. We believe that an active volunteer community creates an environment in which all people thrive.

## We Value Diversity



We value diversity and recognize that all people have time and talents to share, and that communities are strengthened when people connect across their differences through volunteer service. We are committed to creating volunteer opportunities which allow people of all ages and origins to work together to solve community problems.

## We Value Collaboration



We value collaboration and realize that we are at our best when we engage in collaborative efforts that bring together individuals, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, government, nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations to achieve a common vision of better communities.

## We Value Excellence



We value excellence and commit to implementing innovative and effective strategies, holding ourselves accountable for results, sharing our knowledge and best practices with others, and recognizing the value of service rendered by all volunteers in the community.

# YOUTH SERVICE

## IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush issued a challenge to all Americans to make time to help their neighbors, communities, and nation through service. He called on each person to dedicate significant time to service. He created the USA Freedom Corps to help all Americans answer his call to service and help foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility.

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service to others. It encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award has recognized more than 400,000 individuals, families, and groups because of their service.

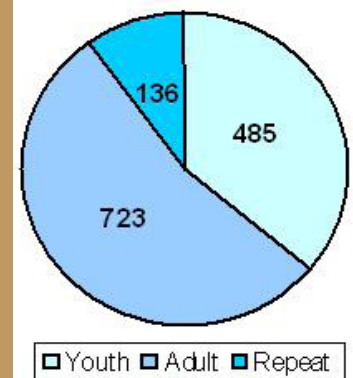
### Summer of Service

School is out and it's time to start serving your community. Sign up for Summer of Service! Through this program, youth will be invited to participate in group service projects and given a list of volunteer opportunity ideas at local agencies. The goal is to promote youth service beginning with the Summer of Service campaign, which will invite youth to find volunteer opportunities, serve, and then reflect by reporting to an online service journal. Participants receive a service certificate either from the COV or from the organization with which they affiliate. Youth are also encouraged to find your own projects tutoring a child, organizing a food drive, helping an elderly neighbor, or organizing a project of your own.



### Capitol Rededication

State Superintendent Patti Harrington agreed to provide funding for each district in the state to send one school bus. Invitations were sent to each district and about twenty made appointments to serve. Student recruitment was left entirely to the districts. The only requirement was that the students were older than sixteen. Due to limited space only 25 students could be accepted from each district. 485 youth (14-16) volunteered during the event. Most came as High School Ambassadors though a few youth volunteered on their own. One young woman from East High came everyday on her own to serve. At the conclusion of the Open House many volunteers expressed how much they enjoyed serving at the Capitol and offered to volunteer for additional projects.



### Hope of America

Close to 7,000 students from 60 schools around Utah County kicked off the first event for Provo's Freedom festival with Tuesday night's Hope of America Student Showcase. The Utah Commission on Volunteers conducted fundraising, provided volunteers, and contributed hundreds of man hours in preparation to promote the Hope of America's theme that a healthy America needs citizens that are physically, mentally, and morally fit.

The fifth-grade chorus from around the county shared what they have learned about American values through patriotic songs in front of an audience stuffed into the rafters of the Brigham Young University Marriott Center.





# COMMISSION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## Volunteerism PSA

Created to Encourage  
Utahans to Volunteerism



This project has already been used on numerous occasions to promote service in Utah to tens of thousands of people. The PSA debuted paired to twenty thousand plus Utahns at the Hope of America Concert.

The PSA is 3 minutes in length with the ability to be cut into smaller segments for re-broadcast. The Starfish Television Network has committed to broadcast our PSA over the coming months.

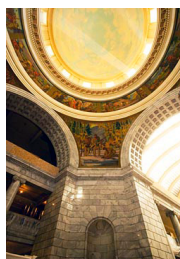


## Capitol Rededication

United States Most  
Beautiful Capitol



While planning the Capitol Rededication Volunteer Project the Commission made it a point to include youth. Early in the planning stages the commission worked with the State Board of Education to involve students from across the State of Utah. Every District in the State was invited to send 25 students totaling almost 500 youth that participated in the project. In order to help the Open House become a spring board for learning about state politics and history, schools were given additional information on provided by the Capitol Curator.



## Seasons of Service

Summer of Service  
Campaign



Utahns of all ages, are donating their time and talents to schools, churches, and local non profits in an effort to improve their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves. Volunteer projects make a dramatic difference in the lives of their young participants by promoting healthy lifestyle and choices, enhancing development, teaching life skills, improving the community, and encouraging a lifelong service ethic. Volunteering can also be an important part of maintaining good health, as research consistently shows that those who volunteer especially those 65 years and older, lead healthier lives than those who do not engage in their communities.

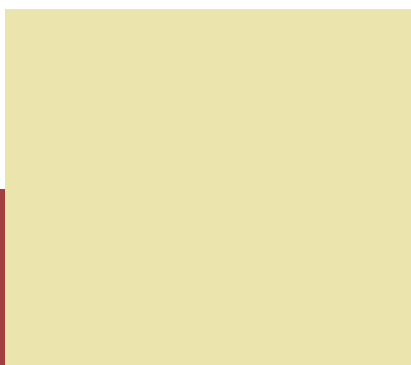
# COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dedication, Persistence, Ambition

Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert  
Wally Brown  
Jake Murakami  
Elaine Gause  
Bill Hulterstrom  
Carol Morrow  
Josh Pedersen

Diane Hartz-Warsoff  
Larry Ellertson  
Brian Garrett  
Ivan Cendese  
Katherine Smith  
George Garwood  
Col. Keith Squires

Alan Griffin  
Betsy Ward  
Marko Mijic  
Jill Stevens  
Lloyd Pendleton  
Shirlee Silversmith  
Christine Kearl



After seven years of service in state government, Executive Director Kathy Smith will be leaving the Utah Commission on Volunteers in July of 2008 to return to full-time motherhood, grand motherhood, and local public service. Kathy served as Executive Director for three years and before that as Utah's Promise Program Manager, beginning in June of 2001. She was privileged to work with three Lieutenant Governors, Olene Walker, Gayle McKeachnie, and Gary Herbert. She is proud of the accomplishments of the extraordinarily dedicated staff of the Commission and grateful for the support of the Commissioners, AmeriCorps Program Directors and members, AmeriCorps VISTA's, and her many colleagues in national and community volunteer service in Utah and across the country. Keep up the great work!



The mission of the Utah Commission on Volunteers is to improve communities through service and volunteering.